



NASA OIG News

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LESSONS LEARNED AND ADVICE

In performing audits, inspections, assessments, and administrative and criminal investigations, OIG staff members identify control weaknesses and recommend enhancements to programs, policies, and processes. In this newsletter, the OIG will convey lessons learned from these activities and provide advice to the NASA community.

Here are a few lessons learned and some advice from prior and on-going projects:

- Employees approved to receive donated leave under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTP) must use the donated leave for the purpose of the medical emergency only. Employees may not use the donated leave for vacations or other personal business. Supervisors retain responsibility for determining that all leave is being used for the medical emergency only. Misuse of donated leave may result in the employee being terminated from the VLTP and donations to the employee's account will be returned to donors.

- **REMEMBER....** In planning your publications, consult early and closely with your installation printing and graphics staff to assure compliance with Federal and NASA rules governing the use of multiple colors, and to avoid unnecessary costs and delays.

SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Audits

- OIG auditors are helping to ensure that NASA is ready for the future by examining the Year 2000 computer problem. We are looking at NASA's efforts to ensure that Agency systems will continue to support the mission into the new millennium. Auditors are currently integrating their activities with reviews by management and contractors. This audit effort is being accomplished with unprecedented cooperation and coordination among the audit staff.

Investigations

- Satellite technology has long been a tool used for monitoring the quality of our Earth's environment. The OIG is conducting a proactive initiative to expand the use of this technology as an investigative tool. The OIG is working closely with NASA management; the Environmental Protection Agency; as well as other Federal, state, and local law enforcement and regulatory agencies on this initiative to use satellite imaging and remote sensing to identify unlawful contamination sites.

Inspections, Assessments, and Administrative Investigations (IAIA)

- Telecommunications and information systems security is a critical function within NASA. IAIA staff members, teaming with an Agency security official, are looking at one area within this function – NASA's flight termination and command destruct systems. The team is evaluating the Agency's compliance with

national security policy and assessing how effective NASA is at ensuring range safety and protecting personnel and property. The team will be doing fieldwork at Goddard Space Flight Center, Wallops Flight Facility, Kennedy Space Center, and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Partnerships and Alliances

- Working jointly with the Department of Transportation OIG, staff members are assessing the coordination efforts between the Federal Aviation Administration and NASA on aviation safety and air traffic management research initiatives.

Legal

- Two recent United States Supreme Court decisions have declared that an individual who falsely denies wrongdoing, during an official Government investigation, can be charged under the false statement statute. These decisions ended what is known as the "Exculpatory No" doctrine. Before these decisions, courts and administrative boards held that a false, unsworn statement to an investigator that amounted to no more than a denial of guilt did not constitute a false statement.
- For more information, visit the OIG web site at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/oig/hq/exculp.html>.

WHAT'S NEW

The audit staff issued reports on the Ames Research Center's acquisition of military housing, NASA's management of sensitive equipment, cost sharing for the Santa Susana cleanup, transportation costs for non-NASA payloads in the SPACEHAB modules, the Earth Science commercial data buy program, and single-source suppliers for critical items. Audits also issued a draft guide for NASA program & project management. The guide, based on the requirements of NASA's policy guidance (NPG 7120.5A) will be used on the audit of the small booster development program for the first time.

The IAIA staff recently issued assessment reports on Marshall Space Flight Center's property disposal outsourcing pilot program and NASA's financial

assistance to foreign visitors. The staff also issued a final inspection report on LeRC security management and a report on enhancing compatibility for long-duration space flight crews.

The P&A staff recently issued a report on NASA's single process initiative and block change process implementation.

The full text of these and other NASA OIG reports can be found on our web site at: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/oig/hq>.

INSIDE THE OIG

We are pleased to introduce the following new staff members:

Samuel A. Maxey has joined the OIG as the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations. Sam comes to NASA from the Department of Defense OIG, Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), where he served as Deputy Director for Technical Services at DCIS Headquarters. Sam will oversee and manage the OIG's investigative program.

Susan Minor, Aerospace Technologist - Technical Management, recently transferred to the OIG from the Johnson Space Center (JSC). While at JSC, Susan served in various positions within the Shuttle Program Office and the Life Sciences Directorate. Susan will be working inspections and assessments involving NASA's research, technology, and program/project management activities.

Betty Weber, Operations Research Analyst, has joined the staff of the Assistant Inspector General for Auditing (AIGA). Betty transferred to the NASA OIG from the U.S. Army Cost and Economic Analysis Center in Falls Church, VA. Although assigned to the AIGA Audit Quality staff, she will support the entire OIG staff with advice and consultation on cost estimating, cost/benefit analyses, and statistical analysis.

NASA OIG News is published periodically to inform NASA and contractor employees of Office of Inspector General activities. If you have a subject you would like for us to address in a future issue, please notify the Director, Resources Management Division, at 202-358-1220, or send an email to charles.heaton@hq.nasa.gov.